

# **Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, and Changes to Domestic Endorsements (Final Rule)**

Office of Operational and Environmental Standards  
Maritime Personnel Qualifications Division (OES-1)

January 2014



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# Discussion Topics

- Background
- Important Dates
- Major Changes in the Final Rule



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# Background

- Incorporates the STCW Convention requirements, including the 2010 amendments by updating the regulations in 46 CFR subchapter B
- Ensures that U.S. mariners comply with the standards set forth in the STCW Convention and Code
- Other changes - reorganize, clarify and update National Endorsements & general requirements



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# Important Dates

- December 24, 2013: Final Rule published
- January 24, 2014: Medical Certificate requirements become effective
- March 24, 2014: All other provisions of the Final Rule are effective
- January 1, 2017: Full compliance with the STCW-related requirements in this rule
- March 24, 2019: Transition period for national endorsements



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# General Approach - STCW

- Existing training regulations/policy were found to be costly, inconsistent & lacked flexibility
- The NPRM included a great deal of training requirements
- In the SNPRM, the Coast Guard responded to comments by using all STCW flexibilities, thus minimizing the training requirements
- **In this Final Rule, the Coast Guard takes a balanced approach to training requirements**



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# STCW Application

- Vessels operating beyond the boundary line
  - Vessels operating in U.S. near-coastal waters (200 nm offshore)
  - Vessels operating in near-coastal waters of a foreign country
- Vessels exempt from application
- Vessels not subject to any obligation under the STCW Convention due to their special operating conditions
  - Small vessels exclusively engaged on domestic voyages



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# Major Changes in the Rule - General

- Parts 11 & 12 - Separation of U.S. National endorsements from STCW endorsement
- Parts 11 & 12 - transition from national endorsement to STCW endorsement
- Requirement for medical certification
- Significant restructuring of the existing regulations for consistency across Parts 10-15 of Title 46



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# Major Changes in the Rule

## Part 10 – Merchant Mariner Credentials

- Establishes the medical requirements and the issuance of medical certificates
- Sea Service- Allows Great Lakes and inland service toward an oceans endorsement
- Requirements for training courses and programs
- Qualifications for qualified assessor and designated examiner
- Requirements for Quality Standard System



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# **Major Changes in the Rule (cont.)**

## **Part 11 – Requirements for Officer Endorsements**

- Requirements for all STCW Officer endorsements, including Electro-technical Officer
- Lowered tonnage requirements to 100 GRT for sea service for Ocean/Near-coastal endorsements
- Combined C/E (Limited-oceans) and C/E (Limited-near coastal) into one C/E (Limited)
- New endorsement: HSC, Security endorsements
- Recognition of Other Parties' STCW Certs.



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# **Major Changes in the Rule (cont.)**

## **Part 12 – Requirements for Ratings Endorsements**

- Consolidation of engine ratings endorsements
- Requirements for all STCW Officer endorsements, including: Able Seafarer –deck; Able Seafarer-Engine; and Electro-technical Rating (ETR)
- National Entry Level and Miscellaneous Ratings were reviewed and updated, as necessary



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# Major Changes in the Rule (cont.)

## Part 13 – Certification of Tankerman

- Establishes STCW Tankerman Endorsements
- Changes to renewal requirements
  - Through service on specific vessel types and transfers, or
  - Attendance to a training course appropriate to the endorsement sought
- Training courses topics were changed to align with STCW requirements



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# Major Changes in the Rule (cont.)

## Part 15 – Manning

- All vessels
  - Carriage of medical certificate when employed on a vessel
- STCW specific requirements
  - Revised regulations for work and rest periods
  - Added endorsements and training for Security Awareness and Personnel with designated security duties



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# Questions/Feedback

- Questions specific to the final rule: submit to **STCWASK@uscg.mil**
- Feedback on the NVICs: submit to **MMCPolicy@uscg.mil**
- Questions on individual applications will be forwarded to the NMC for further action
- Answers to STCW related questions will be posted on the NMCs FAQ section of their web page



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# **Implementation of the Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, and Changes to Domestic Endorsements (Final Rule)**

Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance  
Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division (CVC-4)  
January 2014



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# Discussion Topics

- Medical certification
- Grandfathering
- Transitional provisions
- Training
- Assessments
- Course approval
- NVIC publication process
- Questions/feedback



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# Medical Certification

- Mariners are unable to serve under the authority of their MMC without a valid medical certificate
- Must be renewed every two years for mariners serving on vessels subject to STCW and pilots
- Must be renewed every five years for all other mariners
- All mariners holding STCW endorsements should receive a medical certificate by March 24, 2014
- Expirations dates will be based upon MMC issuance date however will not exceed two years



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# Grandfathering

- NVIC provides grandfathering and transitional information
- The CG will use this guidance when establishing deadlines for :
  - CG approved courses
  - Examinations & onboard assessments
  - Credential restrictions/limitations



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# Transitional Provisions

- Enclosures to the Grandfathering NVIC provide transitional provisions for the following:
  - National Endorsements: March 24, 2014-March 24, 2019
    - Example: Tonnage requirements, Limited endorsements
    - Courses: March 24, 2014-March 24, 2019
  - STCW Endorsements: March 24, 2014-March 24, 2017
    - Example: Training requirements, Assessment requirements
    - Courses: March 24, 2014-December 31, 2016



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# Training

- Mariners may renew STCW certificates & endorsements issued before March 24, 2014 without additional service, training, or assessment until December 31, 2016 (possible limitations)
- Certain STCW endorsements require new training to renew after January 1, 2017 (i.e. leadership training)



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# Assessments

- Final Rule retains requirements for demonstration of competence through assessments for STCW endorsements
- CG will publish guidance and model assessments for those endorsements that previously did not have them
- Certain newly established endorsements require assessments



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# Course Approval

- STCW courses approved prior to the final rule may continue to be offered without modification until December 31, 2016.
- STCW Courses not in compliance with the final rule will not be approved after December 31, 2016.
- National endorsement courses approved prior to the final rule may continue to be offered without modification until March 24, 2019.
- National endorsement courses not in compliance with the final rule will not be approved after March 24, 2019.



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# Course Approval Cont.

- Organizations with approved courses must maintain a Quality Standard System (QSS)
- Course approval NVIC will provide the following:
  - Sample course approval package
  - Course curricula guidelines
  - Guidance for courses using simulators
  - Guidance for distance and e-learning courses
  - Guidance on qualified instructors



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# NVIC Publication Process

- 26 NVICs will be published to provide guidance on implementation of the final rule
- NVICs will provide a process for public comment
- Notice of Availability
- NMC's ListServ will be used to provide public notice
- NVICs will be linked to the National Maritime Center's webpage ([www.uscg.mil/nmc/regulations](http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/regulations))



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# Implementation of the Issuance of Medical Certificates and Security Endorsements

National Maritime Center  
January 2014



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# Discussion Topics

- Issuance of Medical Certificates
- Issuance of Security Endorsements
- Questions/feedback



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# When are medical certificates required?

- 1 Jan 2017 - Per STCW, 2010 Amendments
- 20 Aug 2013 - Per Maritime Labour Convention (MLC)
- Per STCW Final Rule:
  - 1 Jan 2017 for mariners on vessels to which STCW applies
  - 24 Jan 2019 for all other mariners



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# Medical Certificates for mariners who sail internationally

- Within our database, ~55,000 mariners with STCW endorsements
- To implement immediately, NMC surging issuance to those mariners for 90 days beginning 02 Jan 2014
- STCW endorsement holders do not need to apply for a medical certificate during this period unless applying for a separate MMC transaction
- No fees associated with Medical Certificate issuance



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# Medical Certificates for mariners who sail internationally (cont.)

- What you need to do to assist:
  - Ensure NMC has your current mailing address
  - Contact NMC if certificate not received by April
- Others for whom MLC applies – please contact NMC
- Status: 7,721 Medical Certificates have been issued as of 17 Jan 2014



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# Medical Certificates for mariners who sail nationally

- For mariners not subject to STCW (e.g. who sail only inside the boundary line):
- Beginning 24 January 2014:
  - NMC will issue medical certificates to qualified mariners when processing applications that require medical evaluation
  - No specific fee required for medical certificate only
  - Normal fees required for MMC transaction



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# Waivers/Restrictions/Limitations

- Mariners with certain medical conditions may receive a time limited certificate
- Will be recorded by notation of “waiver” on medical cert - waiver letters need no longer be signed and returned
- Medically related restrictions and operational limitations will only be reflected on the medical cert – no longer on the MMC



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# How to apply for a medical certificate

- The CG-719K or CG-719 K/E serve as the application form for a medical certificate
- No CG-719B required for medical certificate only
- No fees apply
- Submit through an REC



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# Security Endorsements

- Required by STCW by 1 Jan 2012
- IMO circular STCW VI/6.6-8 (dtd Jun 2011) allows alternate compliance through section 13 of ISPS Code until 1 Jan 2014
- Policy Letter 12-06 (dtd 11 Oct 2012) notified mariners of requirement
- Required as well by STCW Final Rule by 25 Mar 2014
- Dec 2013 thru Mid-Jan 2014 - Internal NMC Tiger Team operating in response to surge of security applications
- 3 NMC Team members remain to print security endorsements
- Security evaluations continue to be expedited during January
- Beginning 1 Feb, applications handled in order of receipt



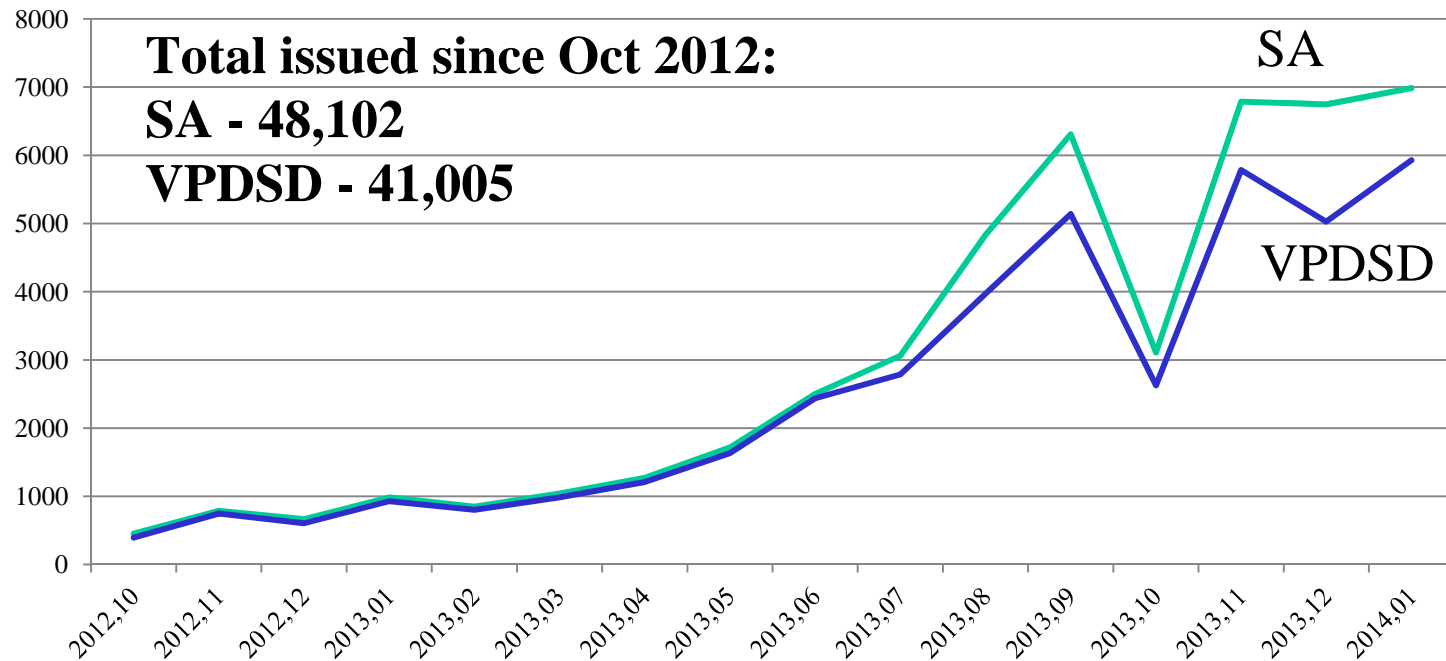
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# Security Endorsement Issuance

- Endorsements issued prior to Oct 2012:
  - Security Awareness – 13,249
  - Vessel Personnel with Designated Security Duties – 11,814



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